

10th Mtn. assumes command of Salerno FOB

Story and photos by Sgt. Greg Heath
4th Public Affairs Detachment

KHOWST, Afghanistan – Italian Task Force Nibbio handed over the reigns of Salerno Forward Operating Base to 10th Mountain Division during a transfer of authority ceremony Sunday.

Task Force 187 of 10th Mountain Division now takes over operations at the FOB near the southeastern border of Afghanistan. Their main responsibilities will be providing security for the firebase, and protecting the forward landing strip and helicopter-landing zone.

“It’s an important mission we have here,” said Company B commander Capt. Justin Pelkey, 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, who’s unit had been at Salerno since late August. “We have to have this FOB for fixed wing, rotary wing, resupply missions, and for the Apache quick reaction force, (among other things.) We make sure that we can aircraft in and out of here as needed.”

The Italian light infantry battle group had been in control of daily operations out of



Co. B Commander Capt. Justin Pelkey, 1st Bn., 87th Inf. Reg., 10th Mtn. Div., stands in formation with his company and soldiers from Italian TF Nibbio during the change of authority ceremony at Salerno FOB.

Salerno since March and after six months of distinguished service is set to return to Italy shortly.

Among Task Force Nibbio’s many accomplishments while in Khowst are that they conducted the first air assault in the history of the Italian army, they participated in Op-

erations Haven Denial and Warrior Sweep with the 82nd Airborne Division, Afghan National Army and Special Operation Forces, they conducted more than 2000 conventional patrols which led to the disposal of many

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Reopening brightens Afghanistan’s medical future

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy M. Williams
211th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KABUL, Afghanistan –A reopening ceremony for the Kabul Medical Institute (KMI) was held here, Sept. 13.

The reopening of the institute that had once been damaged during the Soviet occupation and the Taliban regime was a symbolic evening for Afghanistan because the KMI project ensures a learning environment for all medical students of the Kabul Province.

Currently, there are more than 4,000 students attending KMI, the premiere medical training school in the country of Afghanistan.

“It is truly an honor for me to be here today on behalf of the United States Army, your partner in the reconstruction of this facility,” said Col. Donald Fuller, chief engineer of the Coalition Joint Civil-Military Operations Task Force (CJCMOTF). “Today

we witness another step forward for the Afghan government and more importantly for all Afghan people.”

“The reconstruction of the Kabul Medical Institute will help out a lot and provide a better education for the students,” Capt. Keith A. Dotts, project engineer for CJCMOTF, assigned to CJ7 Engineers in Kabul said. “The reception has been really good and the students and educators are very pleased, which is nice.”

Fuller added, “The government (of Afghanistan) is focused on rebuilding the infrastructure to improve the quality of life for its people, promote stability and raise the country’s standing in the international community.”

The projects include the rebuilding of 20 new practical lab rooms as well as repairs to the medical school’s laboratories. It also provided reconstruction of the water and heating boiler room.

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. John Negroponte casts the lone 'no' vote in the Security Council.

U.S. vetoes Arafat vote in U.N.

UNITED NATIONS — The United States vetoed a U.N. resolution Tuesday that would have demanded Israel halt threats to expel Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat.

Eleven Security Council members voted for the resolution and three members abstained. The U.S. veto killed the resolution.

In the Middle East, chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat said: "This is a sad day for the United Nations. I hope the U.S. veto will not be interpreted by Israel as a license to kill Yasser Arafat."

The Israeli security Cabinet decided in principle last week to remove Arafat, calling him an obstacle to peace, but it provided no specifics about possible action.

The Arab League — which proposed the U.N. resolution through Security Council member Syria — has called Israel's decision to remove Arafat the equivalent of a declaration of war on Middle East peace.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's government blames Arafat for not stopping terrorist attacks that have killed dozens of Israelis in recent weeks.

Arafat remains confined to his compound in the West Bank city of Ramallah, surrounded by supporters.

At the outset of council talks spread over two days, Terje Roed-Larsen, the U.N. Middle East envoy, said Arafat "is democratically elected, and as such, the legitimate leader of the Palestinians. He embodies Palestinian identity and national aspirations. He is now far from irrelevant."



A police officer stands guard outside the restaurant in Stockholm where a suspect in the slaying of Foreign Minister Anna Lindh was arrested.

Suspect arrested in Sweden killing Tuesday

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Police say they have arrested a 35-year-old man with a history of drug and violent crime in the killing of Sweden's foreign minister, Anna Lindh.

Authorities said the man was captured Tuesday night in a restaurant near the Rasunda soccer stadium in Solna — the same Stockholm suburb where Lindh was taken to hospital after she was stabbed last week.

The man's name has not been released, and police have not confirmed he is the same man seen in surveillance video recently made public.

The state news agency *TT* said the man had 18 convictions ranging from fraud to theft to threatening police officers. The news agency also quoted police as saying the man had problems with alcohol and cocaine.

Police had given the man psychiatric tests last year but found he was not mentally disturbed, the news agency said. The man had no steady address and was considered a drifter, *TT* said.

The arrest came hours after police issued an warrant for the suspect and put out a nationwide alert in an effort to track him down.

The warrant was issued as police completed a profile of the suspect and circulated it to law enforcement officials in Sweden and abroad. Details of the profile were not made public.

Lindh was stabbed in the chest, arm and stomach while shopping at the upscale NK department store last Wednesday. She died the following day.



Eying the storm, a boat in Myrtle Beach, S.C., is taken out of the water as a precaution Tuesday.

Coast boards up, flees Hurricane Isabel Tuesday

(CNN) — North Carolina declared a state of emergency Tuesday afternoon to prepare for Hurricane Isabel.

Gov. Michael Easley told *CNN* that the declaration allows emergency vehicles to move into place and will make it easier to declare interstates and highways one-way if evacuation traffic makes that necessary.

Easley has asked residents of low-lying areas to evacuate.

The storm is growing larger as it loses strength and moves closer to the mid-Atlantic coast.

Tropical storm-force winds extend as far as 275 miles (442 kilometers) from the center. Its hurricane-force winds reach outward as far as 160 miles (258 kilometers) from the eye.

Well ahead of landfall, the storm produced large ocean swells and dangerous surf conditions up and down the East Coast.

Isabel remains a Category 2 storm with winds of 105 mph (169 kph), according to the National Hurricane Center's 8 p.m. EDT advisory. The center issued a hurricane watch for Little River Inlet, S.C., north to Chincoteague, Va.

A hurricane watch is issued for coastal areas that face a possible threat from a hurricane, generally within 36 hours.

North Carolina was last hit by a Category 2 storm in 1999, when Hurricane Floyd came ashore and flooded the region for days. According to the University of North Carolina, Floyd caused \$6 billion in damage in North Carolina alone and led to the deaths of more than 52 people.

Bamian CA team not horsing around

Story by Sgt. Stephanie Hall
4th Public Affairs Detachment

BAMIAN, Afghanistan – Shouts of joy from the townsfolk rise as the four mounted “cowboys” ride through the small, desert town they help keep safe from a gang of ruthless “renegades.”

No, this isn’t a scene from an old western movie; it’s as real as it gets. The cowboys are the U.S. and coalition forces in the Bamian Province, the renegades are the Taliban, and the townsfolk are the people of Bamian City.

At least once a week, the Bamian Provincial Reconstruction Team Civil Affairs Team rides horse back through the bazaar, the central point of the city, to show the people that they are and will remain safe from the Taliban.

“The purpose of the rides is to show (U.S. and coalition) presence to the people of Afghanistan that we have come (and) that we’re not like the Taliban,” said Lt. Col. Monti G. Zimmerman, Coalition Joint Civil Military Operations Task Force.

The sense of security is emphasized

because “there was an edict written and prepared by the Taliban that said it was against the law to ride a horse in and through a bazaar, and therefore we demonstrate that you can safely ride a horse in and through a bazaar,” said Zimmerman.

The CA team tries to spread that sense of security to the entire Bamian Province to include those parts that are almost impossible to get to, said Zimmerman, even if it means riding a horse through rough terrain for several days to get to that location.

“There’s not a lot that we’ve been doing in Afghanistan that I would say is normal,” he said. “What we’ve been doing is doctrinal in terms of our interactions, but how we’ve been doing the interactions has had unique challenges based on the terrain and the environment and the people that we’re coming to see. The fact that the majority of the people here live at such a basic level (has) meant that we have had to go back to more basic means in order to” get the team out to the villages.

Riding out to the more difficult locations “shows that we can get to the same places the (locals) can get, and we’re not only limited to vehicles and those sorts of things,” said Maj.

Sid McKissock, the New Zealand Army operations officer at the Bamian PRT, who plans on continuing the horse operations.

“So when we say we’re going to achieve something, and it might be in a very inaccessible place, people will start to believe that yes we can go out and do that even if we have to walk, ride a horse or whatever,” he said.

Zimmerman’s predecessor first initiated the concept of Civil Affairs personnel riding out to the remote villages, and since he took over, Zimmerman has ridden out to more than a dozen villages.

Many times the people are initially startled to see the soldiers ride up to their village on horseback, said Zimmerman. “The only people that had ridden horses to them prior were the Taliban to burn the houses, kill the people, and steal their livestock.”

But once the villagers see that the soldiers are there to provide instead of pillage, they welcome them with smiles and shouts of “Tashakoor” which means thank you in Dari, said Zimmerman. “Just having the fact that they can live their lives without interruption is a huge success for them and for us.”

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Col. Donald Fuller, chief engineer of CJCMOTF, prepares to cut the ribbon at the Kabul Medical Institute ceremony.

Other projects included painting the classrooms and upgrading the institute’s heating, electrical, and plumbing systems.

In addition, doors and windows, along with desks and chairs were replaced.

“The process to renovate this institute is significant as it reflects the efficient workings of the new government. This

facility now joins many other completed projects that have been restored in every part of Afghanistan.” Fuller said. “The renovation of the practical labs and the heating to this facility is an example of the Afghanistan Government’s ability to provide for its citizens.”

Completion of this project has advanced the quality of education and improved the community morale of the KMI. Not only has it significantly improved the educational environment, but also, it allows all medical students to continue their education year-round.

“Over the past year with the help and cooperation of the Central Government, the coalition forces have helped to improve the lives of Afghans and strengthened their resolve to become self-sufficient once again,” Fuller said.

Contributing to the restructuring of the Kabul Medical Institute include representatives of the Ministry of Higher Education, Director of New Construction for KMI, engineer A. Wakeel Azizi from Farhat Architecture & Engineering Rehabilitation, engineer Ghulam Rasoul Haris from Khuram & Sarbagh Construction (KSC) Organization, and CJCMOTF.

“This was a good project and it was good working with the two contractors and all the people involved,” Dotts said. “We still have some work to do on the KMI project, but things have changed a lot and they’ll continue to get better.”

Thus far, the KMI project has cost an estimated \$300,000.

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The American flag is raised at Salerno FOB on Sunday, when 10th Mountain Division took over daily operations from Italian Task Force Nibbio at the change of authority ceremony.

weapons caches, and they developed a strong relationship with local Afghans, according to Brig. Gen. Lloyd Austin, commander of the 10th Mtn. Div. and deputy commander of CJTF-180.

"They should feel good about their contribution to the global war on terrorism," said Austin, during the change of authority ceremony.

The night before the change of authority, the FOB came under its first rocket attack in many months, and according to Pelkey, it shows that the work here is far from done.

"I expect the soldiers to remain ever vigilant, stay alert and stay alive," he said.

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: "About A Boy." Based on Nick Hornby's best-selling novel, *About A Boy* is the story of a cynical, immature young man who is taught how to act like a grown-up by a little boy.

Tomorrow's movie will be "Westside Story."



Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Thursday
Bagram:	Mostly clear H: 91F L: 57F	Mostly clear H: 91F L: 57F
Kandahar:	Dusty H: 95F L: 64F	Dusty H: 99F L: 64F
Kabul:	Mostly clear H: 91F L: 55F	Mostly clear H: 90F L: 57F
Uzbekistan:	Clear H: 89F L: 57F	Clear H: 88F L: 62F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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CJTF-180 Commander —

Lt. Gen. John R. Vines

CJTF-180 Command Sergeant Major —

Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Carey

Public Affairs Officer —

Col. Rodney Davis

Public Affairs Sergeant Major —

Sgt. Maj. Harrison Sarles

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Commander — Maj. Matthew L. Garner

NCOIC — Staff Sgt. Keith Thompson

Editor — Sgt. Johnny A. Thompson

Journalists — Sgt. Stephanie Hall,

Sgt. Gregory Heath, Spc. Wes Landrum, Spc. Kelly Hunt

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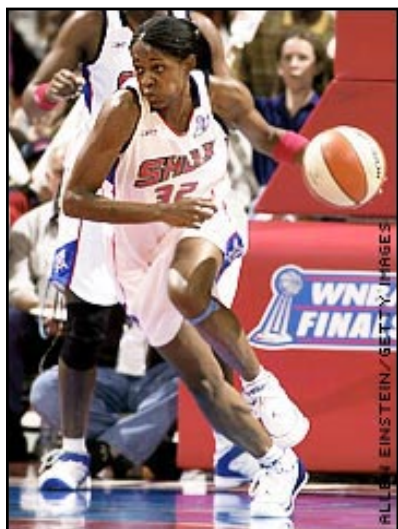
Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from *ESPN.com*)

Detroit 'Shock' the Sparks and win WNBA title Tuesday

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — The Detroit Shock put a perfect ending on their worst-to-first story.

Ruth Riley scored a career-high 27 points and Detroit beat the



Swin Cash and Detroit 'shocked' the L.A. Sparks as they defeated the two-times WNBA champs Tuesday.

two-time defending champion Los Angeles Sparks 83-78 Tuesday night in the decisive Game 3 of the WNBA Finals.

The Shock won a league-best 25 games this season, one year after losing a league-worst 23 with the franchise in danger of being moved or folding.

The Sparks trailed for much of the game, but led 73-70 with 3:40 left.

Riley, who was named the MVP of the finals, made a jumper and Deanna Nolan connected on a 3-

pointer with 53 seconds left to give Detroit the lead for good.

Detroit's Cheryl Ford, with her father Karl Malone covering his eyes at courtside, made four free throws in the final minute to help seal the win.

Los Angeles' Mwadi Mabika scored a season-high 29 points, while Lisa Leslie, who fouled out with 43 seconds left, had 13.

Nolan, who hit the game-winning free throws with 12 seconds left in Game 2, scored 17 points. Swin Cash had 13 points, 12 rebounds and nine assists and Ford added 10 points and 11 rebounds.

DeLisha Milton scored 19 points for the Sparks and Tamecka Dixon added 14.

The Shock are just the third team to win a WNBA title in the league's seven-year history. The Houston Comets won the first four and the Sparks the last two.

The game drew a WNBA-record crowd of 22,076, breaking the mark of 19,563 fans who watched New York play at Houston in the 2000 finals.

Among those in the Thunder Stix-clapping crowd included Malone and Los Angeles Lakers teammate Derek Fisher, Detroit Lions rookie Charles Rogers, former boxing great Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns and Joe Dumars and Vinnie Johnson, two former teammates of Shock coach Bill Laimbeer.

Like he did as a player for the Pistons in 1989, Laimbeer prevented former Laker Michael Cooper, the Sparks' coach, from winning a third straight title.

Kansas City's Holmes questionable for Sunday game against Houston

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Priest Holmes is questionable for Sunday's game with Houston with bruised ribs, raising anew the question of whether Kansas City is asking too much of its Pro Bowl running back.



Priest Holmes

Holmes, the NFL's offensive player of the year in 2002, missed the final two games last season with a hip injury that required surgery.

The Chiefs have said they want Holmes, 30, to get fewer touches than last season, when he had 313 carries for 1,615 yards and 70 passes for another 672 in just 14 games.

But in victories over Pittsburgh and the San Diego Chargers, Holmes had 53 touches.

While nobody is saying Holmes' bruised ribs won't be healed by Sunday, head coach Dick Vermeil said Tuesday that rookie Larry Johnson could be activated this week.

Chiefs coaches are sensitive to suggestions that they might be subjecting their top player to more injury through overuse.

"Last year at this time, Priest had 44 carries for 206 yards and four touchdowns," offensive coordinator Al Saunders said.

"This year he's had 44 carries for 207 yards and five touchdowns. His workload is exactly the same after the first two games as it was last year."

Judge defers Webber's sentencing

DETROIT — A federal judge on Tuesday deferred for about two years the sentencing of Sacramento Kings star Chris Webber, who admitted lying to a grand jury about his dealings with a former University of Michigan basketball booster.



Chris Webber

U.S. District Judge Nancy Edmunds instead ordered a provision to Webber's bond that requires him to volunteer at a six-week summer literacy program at Butzel Middle School in Detroit in the summers of 2004 and 2005.

Edmunds deferred sentencing until August or September of 2005.

In July, Webber pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of criminal contempt a day before jury selection was to begin in his perjury trial.

"I believe that Mr. Webber understands the seriousness of his offense, that he is remorseful," Edmunds said at a brief hearing.

In his plea, Webber admitted lying to the grand jury on Aug. 2, 2000, in saying he did not recall giving money to Martin. Webber now acknowledges that in 1994 he gave Martin about \$38,000 in cash as partial repayment for expenditures Martin made on his behalf.

Martin, who died in February at age 69, pleaded guilty in 2002 to conspiracy to launder money and told federal prosecutors he took gambling money, combined it with other funds and lent \$616,000 to Webber and three other Michigan players.

Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

Oklahoma guard troops to train Afghans

TULSA, Okla. (*Associated Press*) — Oklahoma National Guard troops will lead a five-state Army Guard task force that will train the Afghanistan national army.

Brig. Gen. Tom Mancino, the 45th Brigade commander, will head a National Guard force of up to 1,000 troops in training Afghan army troops in the months leading up to the critical Afghan national elections in June.

An estimated 400 soldiers will be deployed in December from Oklahoma Army Guard units in Sand Springs, Stillwater and Oklahoma City.

Mancino said Afghan warlords run mini-governments, and the war-scarred country is subject to guerrilla attacks by al-Qaeda and Taliban renegades.

"They need to have a trained army to keep the peace in Afghanistan and ensure the stability of their government," the task force commander said.

Mancino's son, Capt. Tom Mancino, is among the troops being deployed to the Middle East hot spot.

"If we fail in this mission," the captain said, "the entire country of Afghanistan could fall back into civil war."

Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai has ordered private armies to disband, but his political influence is limited outside the capital of Kabul.

Some Afghan warlords ignore the state, collect taxes and maintain small armies. Peace will be difficult to achieve without a stabilized national Afghan army, said Brig. Gen. Mancino, who recently returned from an advance reconnaissance to Afghanistan.

The area around Kabul, Mancino said, is mountainous, desert-like, with rocks and little grass. In many ways, he said "it is like you have gone back a couple or 300 years in time."

The American Army Guard forces will be part of a multinational presence in Afghanistan, Mancino said.

Although it is a training mission, the danger is that Afghanistan "is still a combat zone. Religious extremists still operate in the area," Mancino said.

The embedded trainers will be joined on the exercise by a security force and a support unit which will supply rations and transportation.

Capt. Mancino's intelligence unit will provide logistical support for the soldiers, such as measuring the terrorist threat.

"This is a very unique mission in that, one, it is in a combat zone; and, two, its primary focus is to train an army, something that we haven't done," the brigadier general said.

Brigade soldiers will be sent to Fort Carson, Colo., for training before being deployed to Afghanistan in early December.

Hispanic Heritage Month 15 Sept. - 15 Oct.

Bagram Base Operations has coordinated month-long activities to celebrate Hispanic Heritage month.

Activities will be open to all Coalition Forces to join in the spirit of celebration for the contributions Hispanics have made to America's past, present and future.

Celebration activities are:

Each week, BASEOPS will feature one Hispanic American on its homepage under Commanders comments.

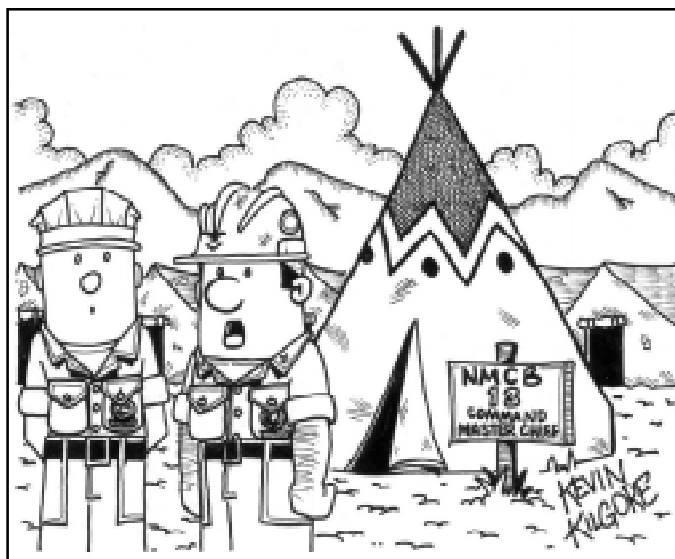
The three main dining facilities will feature a different Hispanic food item each week during the dinner meal.

MWR's Friday night movies will be at the Bagram Civic Center and all shows will feature Hispanic actors or actress starting Sept. 19.

On Sept. 27 at 1630 L, MWR is hosting a Latin Dance and cookout at the fest tent.

All service members are encouraged to attend the events.

"The master chief takes his rank seriously, huh."



kevin_kilgore@hotmail.com

By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support